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DAILY 49ER

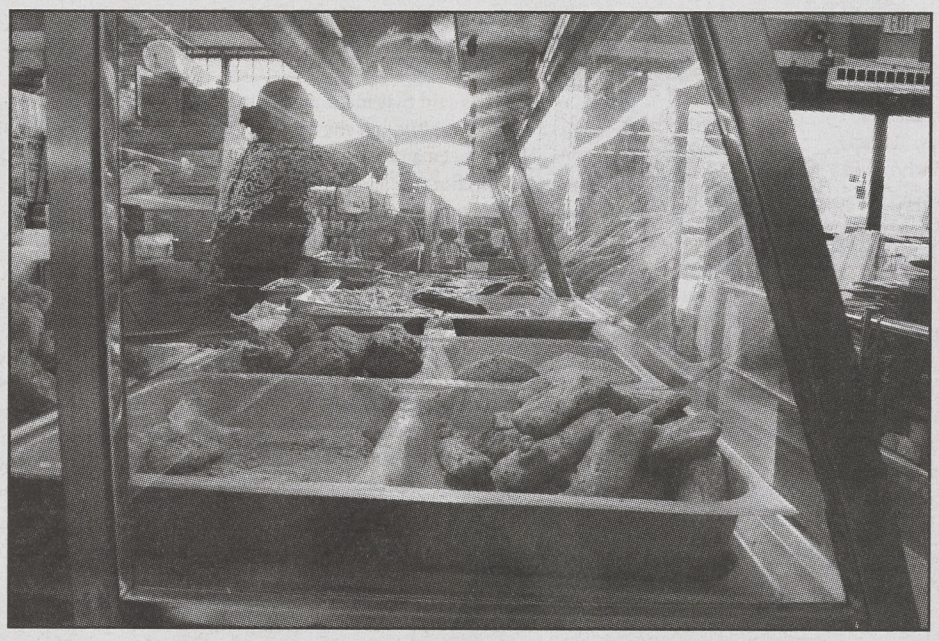
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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
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Kicking out culture

Gentrification may be causing the loss of Long Beach's much-coveted diversity.

BY ARIANA SAWYER
News Editor



KAREN SAWYER | DAILY 49ER

Family owned KH Supermarket at 915 E. Anaheim St. carries an assortment of Asian foods including ready to eat Cambodian snacks and desserts that cannot be purchased at major grocery stores in the rest of Long Beach. This is the kind of culture Long Beach stands to lose with the gentrification of Cambodia Town.

Housing prices have skyrocketed; the city streets are always under construction; new and expensive businesses seem to appear overnight. Long Beach is becoming gentrified.

"It's easy to turn gentrification into the boogeyman, but in many cases it's been a boon," Josh Butler, executive director of Housing Long Beach, said. "I've seen areas of Los Angeles that have undergone gentrification, and it's much improved, but I always ask for whom?"

Gentrification is like a snowball effect where young urban professionals with money who buy property end up driving the cost of living higher and higher, pricing people with low incomes and people of color out of these increasingly whiter and wealthier neighborhoods.

It started in the downtown area some 10 years ago, and with greater economic stability, gentrification has begun spreading at an accelerated rate to neighborhoods like Cambodia Town and North Long Beach.

The average home value in Downtown Long Beach went up from almost $93,000 in 2006 to over $325,000 in 2014, according to the most recent report by the Downtown Long Beach Association, a nonprofit organization that operates on behalf of property owners to improve and develop the downtown area. This may price out lower income buyers and renters.

For entrepreneurs, gentrification is a good sign. Long Beach is a smart investment for business owners or landlords with its relatively low rent, steady growth in purchasing power and eager local developers.

"[Gentrification] is totally torn between cultural disenfranchisement and public safety and sanitation," DLBA communications manager Brian Addison said.

DLBA calls the downtown renovations a renaissance in its report geared toward attracting more business investors. It boasts a $500,000 contribution to the $6.5 million Pine Avenue Refresh Project that resulted in 25 benches, 33 bike racks, 34 litter receptacles, 42 Pink Trumpet trees, 22 Palm trees and 96 LED pedestrian lights.

However, the report does not address the loss of residents with lower incomes.

There are entirely different people living downtown nowadays, Butler said. "My question is not is it better or worse, it's where did those people go?"

"Long Beach prides itself on its diversity," Jorge Rivera, Housing Long Beach community

see **GENTRIFIED**, page 2

To carry or not?

Many students may not have known they needed permission to carry a knife on campus.

BY ARIANA SAWYER
News Editor

University Police said they have no written record of giving permission to the 20-year-old male student who displayed a knife in a sociology class Feb. 25.

"I have no written documentation concerning an approval to carry a weapon on campus by any student," said University Police spokesman Lt. Richard Goodwin.

That's because requests to carry have been so few and far between that Cal State Long Beach Chief of Police Fernando Solarzano gives students verbal permission to carry weapons. This was the case with the community service officer and student in the recent knife incident, according to Goodwin.

Solarzano also gave permission to an additional two individuals carrying other weapons on campus. One of those individuals is a female staff member who carries a stun gun and the other individual sought permission to carry a gun but only as a courtesy. He was an active duty sheriff's deputy who is legally allowed to possess the firearm he carries.

Yet it's likely that several students at CSULB carry pocket knives without ever knowing they needed to ask anyone for consent.

According to an Internet poll conducted over the weekend by the Daily 49er on Twitter, 10 percent of 51 respondents said they carry a knife to school and an additional 12 percent said they used to.

While the California penal code dictates carrying a knife with a blade 2.5 inches or less on campus is legal, a campus regulation says otherwise. According to campus regulation 41301(b)13, carrying a knife without the university president's permission is a disciplinary offense.

CSULB President Jane Close Conoley said that she'd noticed the contradiction in the student handbook and that a group is working to rationalize the law and the regulation.

The president also said last week she had delegated the task of weapons approval to Solorzano.

"I don't literally know the number

see **KNIFE**, page 3

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

There's gold at the end of next season

Column

With top teams in the conference losing its seniors, the 49ers take the Big West Title next season.

BY GRESTER CELIS-ACOSTA
Staff Writer

The Long Beach State women's basketball team season ended in disappointment, coming up short in both the Big West Tournament and the Women's National Invitational Tournament.

Despite a poor postseason, the 49ers posted a great regular season. For first time since 1990 through 1992, LBSU had back-to-back 20-win seasons.

The 49ers went 24-9 overall and 12-4 in conference. Their four losses in the Big West came against first-place UC Riverside and second-place Hawai'i.

LBSU's top scorer, junior guard Raven Benton, averaged 13.5 points per game and had her best season offensively. Benton posted up career highs in both points and assists. She scored 31 points in a victory over UNLV on Dec. 19, 2015 and nine assists in a win against UC Davis on Jan. 28.

Junior forward Jewelyn Sawyer was named Big West Defensive Player of the Year and the 49ers were ranked 11th in the nation in turnovers forced with 21.2 per game.

All these numbers and awards came from a team that had only one senior on the roster.

A total of 24 seniors will be leaving the Big West Conference. 14 of those seniors are coming from three of the top four teams in the Big West: UC Riverside, UH and UC Davis.

Next year the 49ers will have four se-

see **WBB**, page 8



WILLIAM MARTIN | DAILY 49ER

Junior Raven Benton scored 446 points in 2015-16, bringing her career total to 1,112 points. The guard is 199 points away from breaking into the top 10 of LBSU's all-time leading scorer lists.

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ON THE ISSUES

EVIRONMENT

Here's what the 2016 presidential candidates have had to say about environment. This article is part of a weekly series informing students of where candidates stand on the issues for the 2016 presidential elections.

BY ARIANA SAWYER
News Editor

THE REPUBLICANS

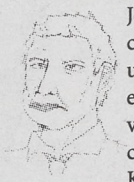
Donald Trump



Donald Trump, R, has said that if he is elected president, he would defund the Environmental Protection Agency. Trump said what the EPA does is a "disgrace." When asked who would protect the environment, Trump said, "we'll be fine with the environment … but you can't destroy businesses." He has said that climate change isn't real, calling it a "hoax" on Fox News in 2014. In a Twitter post, which has now been deleted, Trump alleged that climate change was created by the Chinese to supress the U.S economy. Trump has proposed increasing the rate at which the U.S is drilling for oil.

In regards to a Trump golf course built in Scotland: "There were a lot of issues to be dealt with, from badger and otter protection plans to the economic value to locals. People expected a duel, which I realized, so instead I offered a partnership approach. We worked with the Scottish National Heritage, and it became clear to them that I am environmentally sensitive. I was also inclined to be sympathetic to the rich history of the area due to my own heritage. I also hired the leading expert on geomorphology, for extensive research on the 25 acres of sand dunes on this land."

John Kasich



John Kasich, R, has said that manmade climate change is a real issue, although the extent of it is unproven. He has been a proponent of strengthening the Clean Water Act. However, Kasich voted against allowing the EPA to implement certain regulations of the Kyoto Protocol. The Kyoto Protocol set a greenhouse and carbon emission reduction goal, but was not ratified by the U.S.

"For nearly 30 years, we have behaved as if protecting the environment was somehow at odds with the economic growth … This is a false and dangerous dichotomy; it forces unnecessary divisions between those who want to protect the environment and those who want economic progress. [We must get past] the 'us- versus-them' rhetoric. Economic progress and environmental conservation can and must go hand in hand for the sake of this generation and the next."

Ted Cruz



Ted Cruz, R-Texas, voted against the Water Resource Development Act of 2013. Cruz has said that if elected, he would approve the Keystone Pipeline. He co-sponsored the Federal Land Freedom Act, which would allow states to lease energy rights of public lands.

"We need an all-of-the-above energy approach that embraces the bountiful resources in this land- from oil to natural gas to ethanol. We need to open up abundant and affordable gas and electricity resources … We must harness our nation's energy resources and remove federal impediments to energy exploration, development, and trade."

THE DEMOCRATS

Hillary Clinton



Hillary Clinton, D, has said she supports clean air energy and greater funding of the EPA. The League of Conservative Voters gave her an 89 percent for her pro-environment voting record. Clinton has been a proponent of reducing air pollution to improve the health of children in urban areas. Clinton said she has consistently voted against using the Yucca Mountain as a dumping ground for nuclear waste. The Humane Society Legislative Fund gave Clinton a 100 percent rating for her voting record in on animal rights issues.

"I do believe that the green-collar job piece of [the economic stimulus package] is important. That's why I have $5 billion to do it … We could put hundreds and hundreds of young people to work right now, putting solar panels in, insulating homes. That would give them jobs and it would move us more quickly to a green economy. And I think that if you look at this from a jobs and justice, a stimulation and long-term planning effort, we need to lay down the markers now … "

Bernie Sanders



Bernie Sanders, I-VT, was given a 90 percent rating by the League of Conservative Voters for his voting record on pro-environmental issues. Sanders co-sponsored a bill which would prohibit commercial logging on Federal public lands. He also voted in favor of an amendment to decrease funding to the "Yucca Mountain Youth Zone" website. The website featured games that promoted the dumping of nuclear waste in the Yucca Mountain. Voting in favor of the amendment also indicated opposing the use of Yucca Mountain as a national nuclear waste repository. Sanders also received a 100 percent rating from the Humane Society Legislative Fund, which rates lawmakers on their voting record in regards to animal rights.

"It is hard for me to understand how one can be concerned about climate change but not vigorously oppose the Keystone pipeline … We must make significant reduction in carbon emissions and break our dependency on fossil fuels. That is why I have helped lead the fight in the Senate against the Keystone pipeline, which would transport some of the dirtiest fossil fuel in the world."

ILLUSTRATIONS BY MIRANDA ANDRADE-CEJA

SOURCE: ALL INFORMATION COMES FROM ONTHEISSUES.ORG, A NONPROFIT THAT KEEPS TRACK OF CANDIDATE VOTING RECORDS AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS.

Fight for Five expects traffic

Entrances will be blocked and the Long Beach Transit buses will not cross the picket line.

BY TARYN SAUER
Staff Writer

In the event that the "Fight for Five" strike occurs, it may be difficult to get on campus.

While picket lines will be stationed at every entrance, the California Faculty Association said those striking will not physically block anyone from entering. Staff and students working at campus stores are expected to show up for work.

The strike is set to occur on April 13-15 and 18-19 if an agreement is not reached between the CFA and the California State University system.

Those attempting to enter the campus should expect heavy traffic on adjacent streets, including Seventh Street, Bellflower Boulevard, Atherton Street and Studebaker Street.

The Long Beach Transit buses will not cross the picket line, since the LBT members will hold a partial strike in solidarity with the CFA. While the buses will continue to run throughout the city, they will only drop students off at stops near campus, such as the Channel drop-off station next to Target, not on campus. LBT is currently working with Cal State Long Beach on bus route plans for those days.

The Long Beach campus shuttle buses will still operate as usual.

Besides the potential five-day disruption, the CFA said students should not worry.

"We're not the United Mine Workers, and we don't expect the university to call out either the National Guard or Pinkerton detectives," CFA Chapter President Doug Domingo-Foraste said.

He said students should expect to see a lively and passionate group of faculty, students and union allies cheering and singing in the picket line. Live music and spoken word poetry will accompany the strike. The tone will be celebratory as those striking chant for fair wages.

While the CFA is only striking for the 5 percent salary increase, CFA members said it is an important step toward securing the future of professors across the nation. Among the issues that exist beneath the umbrella of ideals that the proposed salary increase would address lies the issue of tenured density.

Nearly 60 percent of CSU faculty are adjunct professors or lecturers, with less than 20 percent considered tenured professors. Cal State Long Beach has 399 tenured professors, 215 associate professors, 179 assistant professors and 1,340 lecturers, according to the CFA Equity Report released on March 19.

This disparity is what Domingo-Foraste calls "the Wal-Mart-ing of the CSU."

"One day, if things go as they are, there will be no more tenured professors," he said.

According to a CFA report, while the number of adjunct professors has almost doubled, the number of full professors has dropped system-wide by 3 percent since 2004, with some campuses, such as Humboldt State University, CSU Sacramento and CSU Bakersfield, even reaching a 25 percent drop.

With the average income of adjunct professors at $50,000, they earn less than K-12 teachers, who make about $73,396 per year, and that includes splitting teaching time between more than one campus.

"We've been starved for fair wages," Domingo-Foraste said.

As plans for the strike begin to manifest, all 23 campuses statewide are discussing the potential effects. If it does occur, it will be the largest strike in U.S. academic history.

"Our real leverage is a public crisis," CFA member Beka Langen said. "Our goal is to help the public understand."

The fact-finders report, which is the last step in the negotiation process and contains information that can be used at the bargaining table, was released on March 17. The CSU and CFA are now in the 10-day blackout period before it becomes public. If an agreement is not reached with the CSU, the CFA will strike.

Students should consult with their professors in regard to classes being cancelled, as President Jane Close Conoley advised in a campus-wide email on March 15.



PHOTOS BY KAREN SAWYER | DAILY 49ER

This Cambodia Town jewelry store is closed despite business hours that list it as being open. As gentrification becomes more pervasive, the Anaheim Street business corridor will see more and more Southeast Asian owned stores closing their doors.

GENTRIFIED

continued from page 1

organizer, said in an email. "Because of the increasing property values and increasing rents by wealthier people of middle class status, we are going to see poorer individuals and families pushed out of their neighborhoods. Typically, the poorer communities are people of color. So, if we are asking how it will change the culture, then we will definitely see a severe loss of our coveted diversity."

When lower income residents are pushed out of their established communities, loss of culture is a serious issue. For example, Long Beach's Anaheim Corridor once had the largest Cambodian population outside of Cambodia, but gentrification is changing that, Butler said.

Now, Anaheim Corridor business owners want to bring commercial renovation to the neighborhood, Rivera said. "However, in their discussions to date, they make no mention of the reverberating impacts higher property values will have in the surrounding community.

An assessment by the Southern California Association of Governments calls for the construction of 7,048 units in Long Beach, 43 percent of which will go toward moderate-income level households. Of the total, only 15 percent will be allocated to low-income families.

"This implies that the regional planning agency has determined that there is a greater need to plan for accommodating higher income households," Long Beach Development Services spokesperson Jacqueline Medina said.

> "It's easy to turn gentrification into the boogeyman, but in many cases it's been a boon," Josh Butler, executive director of Housing Long Beach, said. "I've seen areas of Los Angeles that have undergone gentrification, and it's much improved, but I always ask for whom?"

"[Business owners] obviously want to do a good thing and improve the business for the shops in the area, not realizing how, in doing so, they will take away from the what makes the community great as it is, which is the people of the Cambodian community," Rivera said.

A large number of current Long Beach residents are at risk of displacement.

"Long Beach is by and large a low-income community," Butler said. "Over one third of Long Beach renters are paying over half their income to rent … When you're paying over 33 percent of your income to rent, you're already paying too much."

The value of housing is also a problem, especially if gentrification affects the ability of low-wage and middle-income workers to live in the neighborhoods near their jobs, according to Christine Jocoy, associate professor with Cal State Long Beach's Department of Urban Planning, in an email.

"Of course, if developers rather than individual homeowners are the main drivers of the gentrification process, then the developers will likely make money depending on the size of their developments and the prices they can charge," Jocoy said.

The pricier and more elaborate the development, the more cost of living rises.

" … Wealthier people will probably bring in more spending, which will produce more revenue, attract new businesses and people, and make the area more economically viable," Rivera said.

But that economic viability may not benefit those who can no longer afford to live in gentrified neighborhoods.

"With gentrification comes corporate interests, and money will flow out of the city," said Immigrant Rights Coalition Community Organizer Jonathan Solorzano. "With small businesses, the money tends to stay within the community."

And when people have to work two and three jobs just to live, they may not have the time or motivation to become politically active or to speak out against housing inequalities.

"It has been documented that the more income equality that exists, the less likely [low income residents] are to be civically engaged in elections or even know who their representatives are," Solorzano said.

It doesn't seem like policy makers or neighborhood renovators are making it any easier for current residents to have a say.

"There's no communication with the community themselves," Solorzano said. "They want to make a park but they don't even consult with the local community. [Residents] end up having a park at the end of the day that they don't even feel belongs to them."

The current residents feel like the renovations are really for the wealthier residents who will come replace them, Solorzano said.

On the other hand, gentrification could inspire a greater amount of political activism within threatened communities, Jocoy said.

"Some people seek gentrification and feel there are benefits, and there can be [benefits]," Butler said. "We have to ask ourselves as our community changes, what are we doing for our residents that are here now?"

Maybe it's possible to have the best of both worlds.

Rivera said, "Conscious policy must be sought in order to ensure our lower income residents and people of color are not being adversely affected, as we strive to improve health, safety, affordability and security of our city and communities."

A version of this article ran in Voicewaves.

KNIFE

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of students who've asked for [weapon approval]," Conoley said. "But as I understood, the response is usually not to say, 'Yes, you can do it,' but, 'If you're not feeling safe, how can we protect you.'"

While investigations into the Feb. 25 incident are ongoing, the police and the administration are unable to share more information. Conoley, who said she believes there should be a zero tolerance weapons policy on campus, did say that the threat assessment of the male student is still ongoing. University Police are monitoring his behavior all of the time.

"Moving forward, I want us to work on our problems," Conoley said. "If we embrace the notion of justice, we can move forward."

In an email two weeks ago, Vice President of Student Affairs Carmen Taylor said that there would be two forums held, one of which took place March 10 and the other to take place on Wednesday.

Taylor has yet to tell students what time and where another forum would take place. The administration is still deciding whether to hold the forum at all, according to Michael Uhlenkamp, CSULB's executive director of news.

Making rounds

Grad students open shared art galleries on CSULB campus for the week.

By Jason Enns
Staff Writer



Photos by Jason Enns | Daily 49er

A student observes the work of student artist, Ja'Rie Gray, who works heavily with canvas paintings.

Drawing and painting majors Helen Cox and Ja'Rie Gray are sharing the Gatov room in Cal State Long Beach's art galleries from March 20-24.

The two students are pursuing master's degrees in fine arts, and their thesis requires them to create a gallery exhibit.

Gatov east features Cox's carousel-themed exhibit, displaying the silent screams of inanimate horses.

"An idea that came to me one morning when I was waking up was of a carousel," Cox said. "But on the carousel there was nothing but adults and they were from all walks of life and they all had their own individual traumas."

Cox has been seeking out antique carousels and using the imagery to create the pieces she's been working on since December 2014.

"I'm using [the carousel] as a metaphor," Cox said, "for the way society spins in circles and we keep repeating the same mistakes."

Connecting with her exhibit in Gatov west is Gray's gallery. Her paintings feature portraits of Njideka Crosby-inspired African women, with a consistent theme revolving around a bottle of bleach.

Her exhibit represents a compelling personal story.

"Growing up, I wasn't happy with my skin complexion because a majority of my family is of lighter skin," Gray said. "So I grew up wondering, 'Why am I the oddball?'"

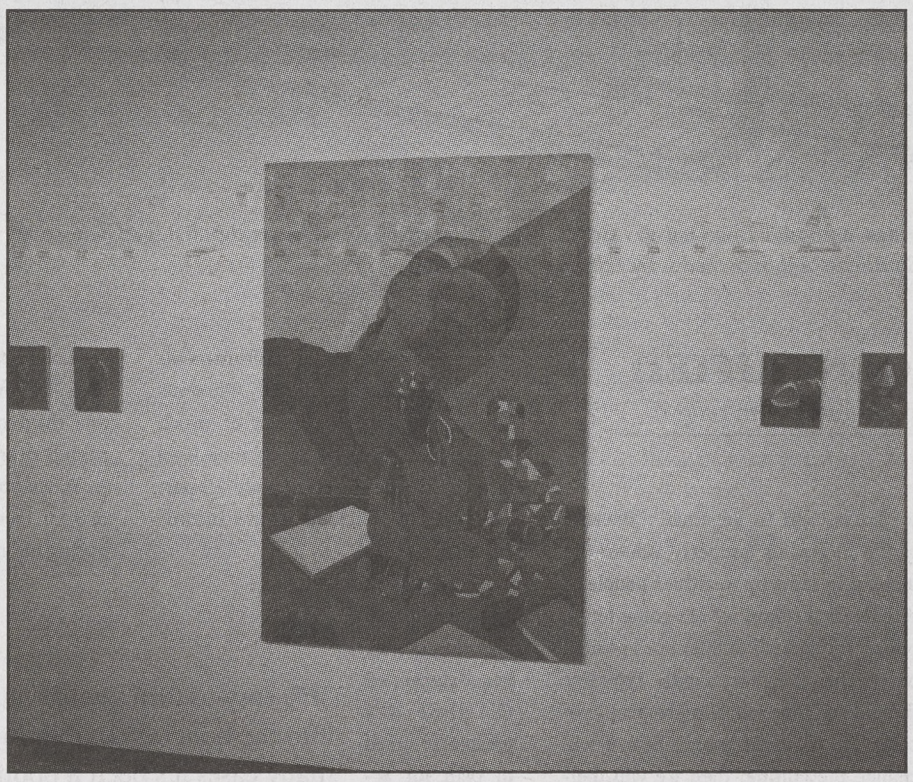
Once when she was seven, she tried taking a bath in bleach, an item which continues to appear in paintings throughout the gallery. Now she's promoting the message of accepting one's physical appearance.

Gray said, "Don't go to the extreme to try and be who you're not."

The galleries are located between the FA2 and FA3 buildings, and close at 5 p.m. They will be open free of charge until Thursday afternoon.



Student artist Helen Cox aims to further understand the complexity of humans by portraying festive carousal horses silently screaming.



Ja'Rie Gray's work celebrates her identity as a dark-skinned woman.

did you know the daily 49er has a youtube channel?

YOUTUBE.COM/VIDEOD49ER

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All the 'menu' is a stage

Guests can plan on getting served at this year's art gala.

BY LAUREN TORRES
Staff Writer

A second helping of Theatre Art a' la Carte, a night where you can choose your entertainment from a menu of options, is coming to Cal State Long Beach May 1.

The three-hour gala, which debuted for the first time last year, focuses on showcasing different aspects of student performance art to raise money for the CSULB Theatre Art Department, student organizations and funding for guest artists. The event is held at the Theatre Arts building.

The event, originally created by alumnus and former theatre management student Monica Miklas, took about eight months to plan and was so successful last year that its "menu" format is still being used.

"We received an overwhelming amount of positive feedback regarding the flow of the event," Christina Ramos, creative director of special events at California Repertory Company, said. "Guests seemed to appreciate that it was a departure from the usual sit-down dinner and speech that is typical of most galas."

The night's host is comedian Craig Anton ("Jimmy Kimmel Live"), and the "menu" runs like a three-course meal. The evening starts with an hour of drinks and appetizers, a silent auction and dance piece.

The next hour serves as the real "a' la carte" aspect of the night and gives attendees a chance to choose two of the five entertainment options offered up for "tasting" with options like a slew of student-created plays or a sketching class.

During the last hour, actress Alexandra Billings (Amazon's "Transparent") will close the show with a song while guests are served dessert.

Although the gala's proceeds will go towards benefitting students, at $100 a ticket, it's not exactly tailored for the skimpy-sized wallet most students survive on.

"While students may not be the target market of this kind of event, they are the sole reason for and beneficiary of this kind of event," Ramos said.

Tickets for Theatre Art a' la Carte are now on sale at gala.calrep.org.

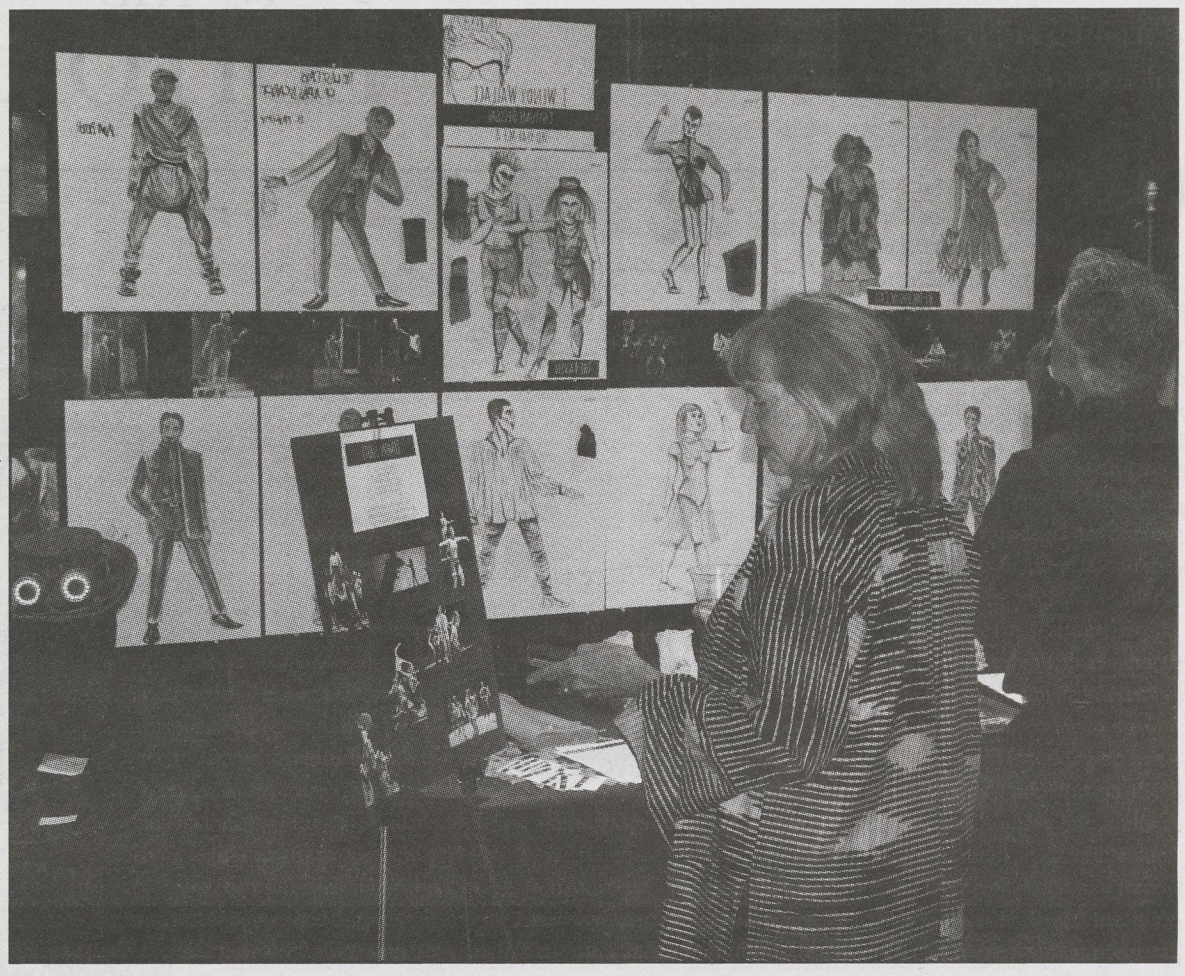


PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTINA RAMOS

The first-ever Theatre Art A' la Carte was held last year, offering similar "menu-type" options to gala-goers who were interested in supporting the Cal State Long Beach arts program as well as art appreciation.

Aaron Paul's rocky path to stardom

PASADENA, Calif. — When 17-year old Aaron Paul arrived in West Hollywood to become an actor, he knew he had worlds to conquer. His mother drove with him in his 1982 Toyota Corolla, which had a trunk that flooded in a downpour and no second gear.

"My mom dropped me off, moved me into this little studio, and there was a shoot-out at the Bank of America two blocks away," recalls Paul over lunch at a hotel cafe here.

"We could hear the gunshots .... Helicopters overhead. And my mom is, of course, terrified. The first night with her leaving, I thought, 'OK, I'm an adult.' But I was an infant, really, with a lot to learn. I think that first night changed me."

In spite of his youthful optimism it wasn't going to get better soon. Paul had saved $5,000 to make the move. "That was the most money I'd ever seen in my life. And it went pretty quickly. ... I was living on Top Ramen. You could get 10 packets for $1 back then."

Nine months passed before he wangled a job. "The first few months was fine," he says, taking a bite of steak salad. "I had money to pay the $500-a-month rent, but quickly I had a roommate move in. And one week I had the bed, and the next week I had the walk-in closet. But it was great," he smiles.

He managed to line up some commercials and was working as an usher at the Universal City movie theater. "I did that simply because I could watch movies for free and I was on a fixed income. I got by doing commercials," he says. "You just cross your fingers hoping you'd make the cut. I think I've probably done 30-plus commercials. I had my ups and downs, but I was having a great time. I was somewhat fulfilling my dream. But I wanted more."

He got more all right, in a way that would alter his life. Paul, 36, landed the role of the flaky druggie Jesse Pinkman in the now-classic "Breaking Bad." "Right before 'Breaking Bad' I was at my lowest low in terms of doubting myself," he says, pausing, his fingers caressing his water glass.

"I was barely paying my bills. I had spent money from my commercials. It costs money to live in Los Angeles. I'm like, how can I continue to go down this path of my own personal dream? I never wanted to ask for help from anyone. This was MY dream so I wanted to do it alone."

But he couldn't. "I remember the day when I called my mom and dad — it was very emotional for me — and I asked them for help with my rent. I know this was very hard for them. It's almost impossible for them to say no, but it's very hard for them to say yes.

"So they ended up paying my rent for three months. I knew that was that. It was 1,200 bucks a months, $3,600 and that was a LOT of money for them. Then I got a script sent to me by the name of 'Breaking Bad.' I read it and I knew that was the role that was going to change everything for me. So I just gave it my all."

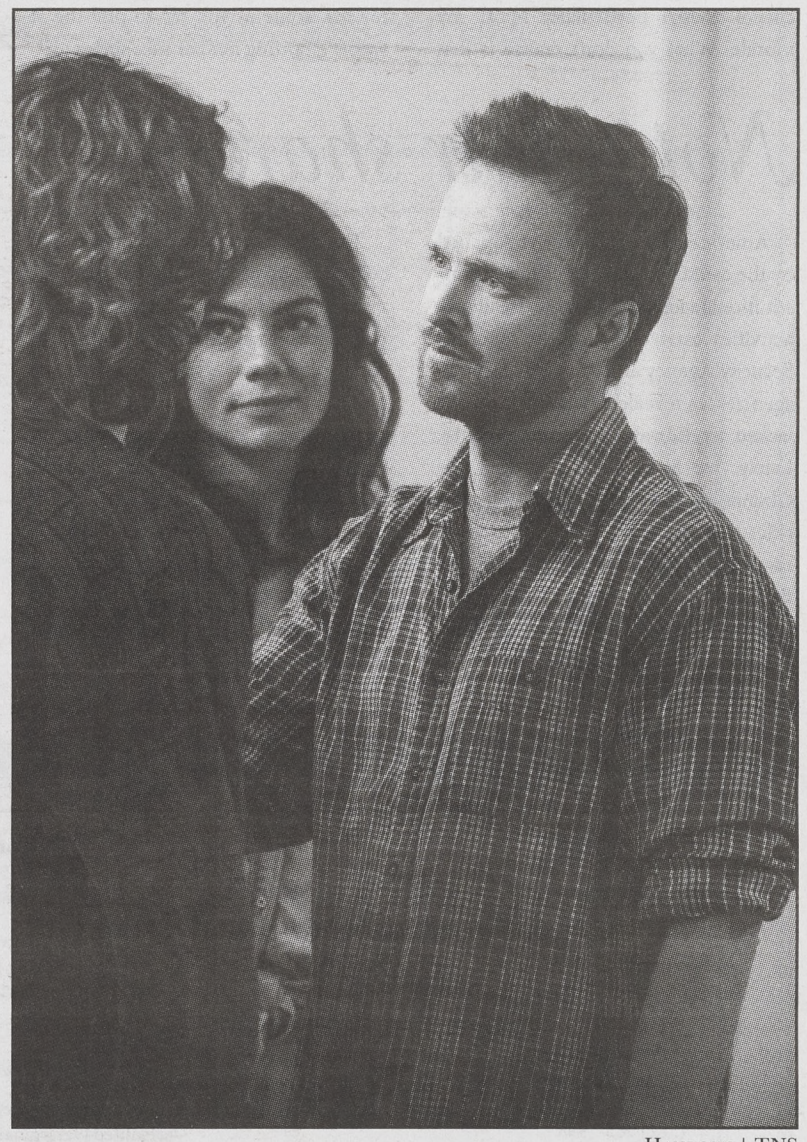
The series was such a phenomenal success that afterward Paul vowed to take a break from episodic television and concentrate on film. After all, he'd performed in seven pilots before he landed that series. None of them were picked up except "Breaking Bad."

"At the time no one knew if it would survive," he recalls. "We saw it at the Sony lot — this is before we were picked up. We knew it was a special script, we knew we had an incredible experience shooting the project, but you just never know. Everything has to fall into place in the most cosmic way. And it did. Everyone was so emotional, jaws on the floor. And when the credits rolled we were just speechless and we all knew our lives were going to be changed."

So how does he follow a flawless effort like that? When his agent told him about "The Path," which premieres on Hulu March 30, he was reluctant. But he met with the producers. "I had a great meeting and walked out thinking, 'I think I'm going to pull the trigger. I think I'm going to do it.' Then I got cold feet and ended up passing on it."

He didn't want to do another series and was concerned that people would compare it to "Breaking Bad." He needn't have worried. In "The Path" Paul plays a conflicted husband, a convert to a Scientology-like religion that tests his commitment and faith.("Two days later, after a couple of sleepless nights, I couldn't stop thinking about it. I was in the middle of dinner and it was just internally in my head, and I just interrupted the conversation and said, 'I have to step outside and make a phone call.' I left and called my reps and said, 'Can we get this back?' I put them through a little torture but I'm so happy they didn't give it to somebody else."

— Luaine Lee, TNS



HANDOUT | TNS

Michelle Monaghan, center, and Aaron Paul, right, try to calm a fellow believer in the intriguing new series, "The Path," premiering on Hulu March 30.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the guys I play rec basketball with,

As if walking into the gym and seeing no girls playing on the courts wasn't disheartening enough, the disdain in your eyes that screams "I hope she doesn't ask to play" almost stops me in my tracks.

Asking a group of random college guys to play basketball with me (as a 5-foot tall, slightly awkward girl) is an already daunting task, and even more so without receiving a welcoming attitude.

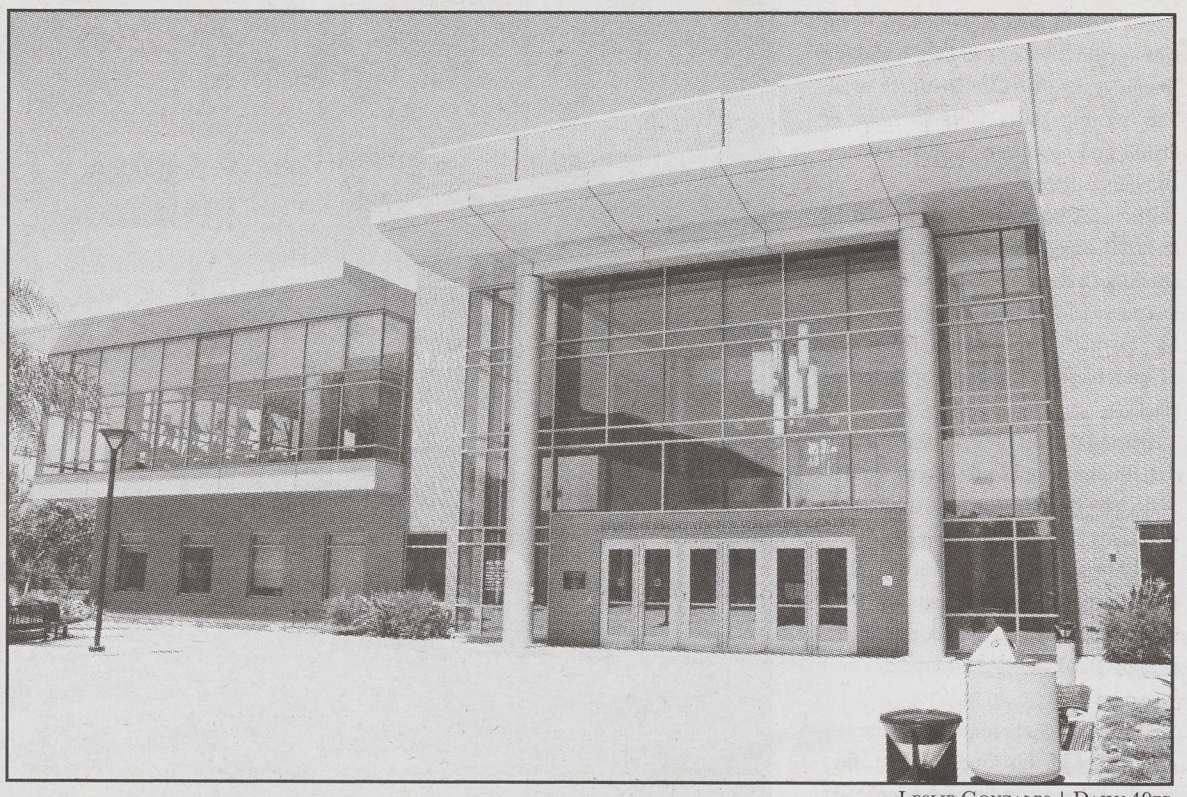
I ask anyway. And why shouldn't I? I deserve to play just as much the rest of you.

Now, I don't plan on penning my version of "Dear Basketball…" anytime soon, but here's the thing: I'm a pretty decent basketball player.

Of course, you wouldn't know that because after you reluctantly let me on your team, chances are I won't get passed the ball. I mean, I love cardio as much as the next college girl trying to slim down before spring break, but if I wanted to run without a ball in my hand I would have chosen the treadmill, not the courts.

I digress.

I'm all for team camaraderie and support, and on the off chance I do get my hands on the ball and score, a quick "great shot!" would suffice. Hearing your outlandish and over exaggerated cheers doesn't particularly boost my morale. What you don't realize is that your "support" feels patronizing, because I know it's coming from a place of surprise — you didn't actually expect me to score. If any of my male counterparts had made that same shot, there would be no celebration, grand parade or popping of champagne.



Leslie Gonzales | Daily 49er

The Student Recreation and Wellness Center on lower campus offers a variety of sports opportunities for students, but not all feel they are treated equally.

To make things more uncomfortable for me, some of you try to pull the "I wasn't guarding her because she's a girl" card after your teammates reprimand you for letting me score, as if I'm not even worthy of your effort or my gender somehow affects your ability to actually play basketball. Does having a little estrogen on the court really affect you so much that you have to find a way to diminish my accomplishments?

I'll let you in on a little secret: I would love it if you blocked my shots, and stole the ball and broke my ankles (figuratively, of course). At least I would feel like an equal and not some charity case you let play ball with the boys. Whether you guard me or not, a basket is a basket in the eyes of the scoreboard, and that's something you can't diminish.

I mean, how am I expected to get better if I'm playing against myself?

Now I'm not saying all the guys at the Rec are like this, nor do I think you are bad people. I know you probably don't think twice about any of this — you're just trying to have fun and play basketball.

But while you're shooting airballs and laughing with your friends at the dumb mistakes they make, I'm terrified of making a bad shot for fear of eye rolls and the "I knew we shouldn't have let her play" side-eyes.

I'm trying to have fun too; it's just hard when I feel like the whole future of feminism is riding on my performance.

All I want is for you to put yourselves in my shoes (not literally because I'm a size 6 and most women can't even put themselves in my shoes).

Imagine what it's like having someone tell you they have a full team and then watching them pick up another guy.

Imagine what it feels like when no one passes you the ball. Imagine what it's like when someone tells you to your face how much they don't like playing with girls (or in your case: boys).

Just imagine.

Next time a girl wants to play Rec ball with you, there's no need to go above and beyond to make her feel welcome. That would be the opposite of whole the equality message I'm trying to convey. Just treat her how you would any other player.

Be nice. Be respectful. Be inclusive.

Sincerely,

A girl who's just trying to ball out

Leah Khoury

Senior accounting major

Not a fair share

American citizens' eyes were opened by the awesome power, reach and constitutional violations of the surveillance activities carried out by the National Security Agency and other government agencies, as revealed by the documents leaked by Edward Snowden in 2013. Lately, we have discovered that the Obama administration is drawing up rules that will allow the NSA to share raw surveillance data with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other intelligence agencies without first applying any privacy protections.

The NSA is supposed to focus bulk collection of phone calls, emails, text messages and other correspondences on international communications, but Americans may be swept up if an international call or message is to, from or about them. When such information is shared with other agencies, the NSA is supposed to first strip out Americans' identifying information. Allowing agencies such as the FBI access to "pre-screened" data thus provides them a "backdoor" to search information without obtaining a warrant.

"In short, domestic law enforcement officials now have access to huge troves of American communications, obtained without warrants, that they can use to put people in cages," the ACLU of Massachusetts notes in a post on its PrivacySOS blog. "FBI agents don't need to have any 'national security' related reason to plug your name, email address, phone number or other 'selector' into the NSA's gargantuan data trove. … That means information the NSA collects for purposes of so-called 'national security' will be used by police to lock up ordinary Americans for routine crimes."

> "Allowing agencies such as the FBI access to "pre-screened" data thus provides them a "backdoor" to search information without obtaining a warrant."

Government agencies have repeatedly proven that they cannot be trusted with our personal information. Their surveillance activities are characteristic of a police state and are not compatible with a free society. Congress must immediately put a halt to this government snooping, particularly domestic surveillance, to preserve what privacy we have left.

–The Orange County Register | TNS

Correction: In Monday's article "Me, myself and ASI," it was reported that 8.4 percent of students voted in last year's Associated Students Inc. election. The actual figure is 11.9 percent, which represents 4,196 students.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Let the good basketball roll

Column

With 14 players coming back, the 49ers can use the end of this season as fuel going into next year.

By Will Hernandez
Assistant Sports Editor



Lalig Tarbinian | Daily 49er

Sophomore Justin Bibbins (21) totaled 164 assists in 2015-16, the third most assists in a single season at Long Beach State. The point guard is on pace to finish third all-time in assists at LBSU.

After two straight seasons that ended with below .500 records and quick exits from the conference tournament, the Long Beach State men's basketball team finally found itself back in familiar territory.

During LBSU head coach Dan Monson's nine year tenure, the team has gone to four Big West Tournament championship games and earned three postseason berths.

The 49ers (20-15, 12-4) were back in the Big West Tournament championship game after steamrolling past nine Big West foes in the last 10 games of the regular season and knocking off UC Riverside and Irvine in the first two rounds.

Against the Rainbow Warriors, the 49ers were one three-point shot away from punching their ticket into the NCAA tournament.

Monson said the team had the right cast of players it was missing in the last two years, but struggled this season to find consistency and in the tournament final.

"We needed to have the right guys in this program and this team proved that we do," Monson said after losing 64-60 against Hawai'i on Mar. 12. "Now we just have to get over that last hurdle [of staying consistent] that we didn't today."

The 49ers got a seat at the National Invitation tournament and were four minutes away from advancing to the second round with a 94-90 lead. However, its double-digit first-half lead crumbled away against the University of Washington in the second half losing 107-102 to the Huskies in Seattle.

The heartbreaking defeat also closed the book on the collegiate careers of senior guards Nick Faust and A.J. Spencer.

After transferring from the University of Maryland, Faust was the 49ers' leading scorer this season. The Baltimore, Maryland native averaged 17.0 points per game and finished with a total of 609, making him the eighth player in school history to score 600 in a single season.

Nevertheless, LBSU has a lot to look forward to in the future.

The 49ers return three of their five starters, Justin Bibbins, Gabe Levin and Mason Riggins, and the league's reigning sixth man of the year, junior forward Travis Hammonds.

Although Hammonds averaged 10.1 ppg and delivered in key moments for the 49ers, Bibbins will be the most valuable asset for LBSU in the next two years.

The sophomore from Carson was the 49ers' second leading scorer (12.0 ppg) and averaged 5.0 assists, and ranked second best in the Big West behind Hawai'i's guard Roderick Bobbitt's 5.5 apg.

Like his predecessors, Bibbins proved this season that he is the new generation of crafty 49er point guards.

When Casper Ware played at LBSU from 2008-2012, he dished out a school-record 545 assists. Ware's successor, Mike Caffey, [2011-15] filled in Ware's shoes nicely racking up 457 career assists, third best in school history.

Bibbins learned from Caffey last season and was like a quarterback this season dishing out a total of 164 assists, which is the third best single season total in school history.

Meanwhile, the 49ers were sitting at 9-12 overall on Jan. 23 after blowing a second-half lead against Cal Poly. But after overcoming a second half deficit and beating UC Santa Barbara 80-70 in overtime on Jan. 28, the 49ers steamrolled the last 10 games of the season on a 9-1 run.

"This team improved a lot from beginning to end and that's fun because that's what coaching is all about," Monson said.

There aren't a lot of programs in the country with as tough a nonconference schedule that includes three teams that made it into this week's Sweet 16.

LBSU still managed to finish with an overall record above .500 for the first time since the 2012-13 season; the 49ers have something to build on for next season.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

WBB

continued from page 1

niors on the roster, all of whom were starters this season receiving valuable experience.

This makes some room for the 49ers to make noise next year in both the regular season and the postseason in the Big West Tournament.

Hawai'i, UC Riverside and UC Davis will take hits as all three teams are losing top scorers.

The Rainbow Wahine will lose five players, including its only double-digit scorer of the season in Destiny King. King averaged 10.6 ppg on 43 percent shooting from the field. The 5-10 guard was also the team's top rebounder with 6.6 rebounds per game.

The Highlanders will also lose five seniors, none more accomplished than the two-time Big West Player of the Year Brittany Crain. She averaged 22.5 points per game, which was the most by any player in conference.

UC Riverside will also be losing its third top scorer, Annelise Ito. The 6-foot-3 forward averaged 13.2 ppg, making her the seventh-leading scorer the Big West Conference.

Lastly, the Aggies will be losing four seniors, with one of them being Alyson Doherty. Doherty was the second top scorer on the team averaging 12.4 points a game and second best blocker in conference. She was also tied for the best rebounder on the team, averaging 6.3 boards a game.

The 49ers have proven they can beat every team within the conference, sweeping everyone outside of Hawai'i and UC Riverside. But with both the Highlanders and Rainbow Wahine missing their top players next season, the 49ers will prove they can beat them too.

Now, of course, it won't be easy since UC Riverside will still be formidable as its second top scorer Rejane Verin will become a senior next season, but the 49ers will have the most complete and experienced team going in.

Benton will continue to be a prolific scorer, Sawyer is a great defender and her overall game will improve, Anna Kim is a great floor general and Madison Montgomery won't stop playing high-effort, high-energy basketball.

And a player that will have a breakthrough year next season is sophomore Gigi Hascheff. Hascheff has probably the best ball handling skills on the team: she's fast, can get to the basket at will and can make the three ball.

All the factors add up to a season where the 49ers can make a serious run at the Big West Title and get into the NCAA Tournament.